

## LURGAN RIOTS INQUIRY COMMISSION.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 15 March 1880;—for,

COPY " of REPORT, dated the 31st day of October 1879, made by the  
LURGAN RIOTS INQUIRY COMMISSIONERS to His Grace the Lorn  
LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND."

REPORT to His Grace *John Winston*, Duke of Marlborough, K.G., Lord  
Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please Your Grace,

THEIR Excellencies the Lords Justices having been pleased to issue to us a Warrant bearing date the 23rd day of September 1879, whereby, having recited that certain riots and disturbances of a serious character had recently taken place in the town of Lurgan, and that their Excellencies deemed it expedient that inquiry should be made in respect of the several matters set out in their Excellencies' Warrant, in order that such measures might be adopted as might be found expedient; their Excellencies authorised and directed us to hold a Court of Inquiry at Lurgan aforesaid, on the 2nd day of October 1879, and following days, and to inquire into the circumstances of the said riots and disturbances, the existing local arrangements for the preservation of the peace of the town of Lurgan, the magisterial jurisdiction exercised within it, and the amount and constitution and efficiency of the police force usually available there, and the proceedings and action taken by the magistrates and other local authorities, and the police force, on the occasion of the said riots and disturbances; and whether these authorities and the existing police force are adequate to the future maintenance of order and tranquillity within the town, and whether any, and what steps ought to be taken, and whether any, and what changes ought to be made in the local, magisterial, and police jurisdiction, arrangements, and establishment, with a view to the better preservation of the public peace, and the prevention or prompt suppression of riot and disorder.

In obedience to their Excellencies' Warrant we opened the inquiry so directed in the Quarter Sessions Court House, Lurgan, on Thursday the 2nd day of October last, at the hour of 12 o'clock. The Warrant under which we sat was read by the senior commissioner, who stated shortly the scope and purport of the investigation upon which we were about to enter, and also the mode in which we proposed to carry it out. When this was done we at once entered upon the inquiry. Mr. M'Hugh, barrister-at-law, represented certain Roman Catholic inhabitants of the town, who had signed the memorial to your Grace, asking for an inquiry into the subjects before mentioned. Mr. Atkinson, solicitor, appeared for the town commissioners; Mr. Hazlett, solicitor, was concerned for Lord Lurgan; Mr. Ussher, solicitor, appeared for certain ratepayers; and Mr. Harris, solicitor, was professionally engaged for Mr. Redmond, M.M. The inquiry continued every day from its commencement (with the exception of Sunday the 5th) until Saturday the 11th of October, inclusive, upon which last-mentioned day it was concluded. One hundred and one witnesses were examined, representing the various classes in the town and its neighbourhood, and also representing the different religious denominations of Protestants and Roman Catholics. We shall now lay before your Grace the result of our inquiry, following as nearly as possible the order in which the various subjects are mentioned in the Warrant.